DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

II. Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 367 under demand II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income. This amount is required for meeting the expenditure on account of arrears of rent due for the building in which the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax was held. The arrears relate to the period from Thulam to Meenom 1116. The amount provided for the purpose in the budget of 1116 could not be drawn and disbursed on account of dispute as to the person entitled to receive the rent. The dispute has now come to an end and the arrears are proposed to be paid to the party. I therefore request the House to sanction this amount as an additional grant.

The motion was passed and the grant made.

DEMAND VII—Public Works Department including Water works and Drainage.

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,125 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage. This amount is required to meet the additional expenditure on account of the T. A. claims of the members of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee. The members of the committee did some touring work towards the latter part of 1116. The amount allotted for this year is sufficient only for the normal expenditure of this year. The additional sum is required to meet the arrears of 1116. So I move this motion for the sanction of this House.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): May I ask whether the department could not have anticipated the touring work during the last year?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: They decided on the touring only towards the latter part of last year.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Quilon cum Kunnathur*): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand. I infer that this amount asked for has already been spent. The Chief Engineer stated that the committee had already done some touring work. The present demand is to meet the expenditure in excess of the grant already made by this House at the time of the budget. That is an irregularity against which this House, if it hopes to exercise any financial control, ought to protest against. They had no business to carry on their travels in excess of the amount that had been granted by both Houses of Legislature, which comes to Rs. 3,000. There is no purpose in estimating for the budget if the amounts so estimated are undependable. If the actual expenditure

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[Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

incurred cannot be even remotely forecasted, there is no purpose in having estimates. I do not grudge the travelling allowance to the committee and there may be necessity for the travel. At the same time I wish to insist upon the right of the House to exercise its legitimate duty of controlling the budget. I think this amount ought not to be granted. There is no justification put forward for moving the demand under the rules prescribed for supplementary grants.

Sir, at the time of the budget discussion I had expressed the hope that the usual device of resorting to supplementary grants for anything and everything may not recur. It will be seen that in other parliamentary institutions supplementary grants are asked or to meet grave exigencies like the demand for increasing the navy or meeting military expenditure. But here it is for meeting travelling allowance which could very well have been foreseen and which the House could have discussed in detail at the time of the budget. By bringing it up as a supplementary grant the scope of our discussion is restricted under the rules and the control that ought to be exercised over expenditure could not be exercised. So much in regard to the technical objection.

On the merits I think in view of the statement made from the Chair, this expenditure if it has not already been incurred, cannot be incurred. The Chief Engineer said that the amount already granted will be sufficient only for the normal activities of the department. If that is so, let us be satisfied with the normal activities. Let us not have more of this touring. I wish to suggest that in view of the programme of road building that has been forecasted by the Chair there will be no necessity for the committee to tour round because Government themselves would decide what road work they should take up with reference to the money available. At this time when even wars are being carried on with the aid of maps I fail to see why the committee could not resort to the map of the country and restrict its travelling. I must say, Sir, with due respect to the committee and to the mover of the motion that the number of members on the committee is only eight and the amount of T. A. is Rs. 8,000 including the amount already sanctioned in the budget. It means that roughly each member is drawing Rs. 1,000. I do not mind spending that amount or even more if the Chief Engineer had pointed out any urgent necessity, and stated that this demand could not wait till the next regular session. I think, Sir, the rules laid down in all legislatures, by the wisdom borrowed from ages of experience ought to be strictly followed. I think that the House should refuse the demand unless of course the Chief Engineer says that the travelling has already been done. It

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will be highly irregular and a warning should be given to the committee that they should not exceed the limits of expenditure laid down. If the amount has not already been spent, let us not spend it. In view of the declaration made from the Chair that a regular road building programme is available, there may not be any necessity for the committee to tour round and find out the roads for construction.

President: The road building programme will apply only to big roads ; the object of this committee is to see to the fulfilment of purely local or sectional requirements.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: In view of the expenditure that will be involved in the big road building programme money will not be available for small roads. If some little money is available that may be spent on the roads suggested by the committee. In any case there is no necessity for touring and the travelling allowance becomes unnecessary in the form of a supplementary demand. It could very well wait till the next regular budget.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli, Kartikappalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, as a member of the P. W. D. Advisory Committee, it is my duty to remove the misapprehension which Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai is subject to. I am grateful to my friend for the enunciation of the general principles that should guide in the art of budget making and the sins that ought to be avoided. According to him a supplementary demand is a budgetary sin. Nothing of that sort. As I said once before, I am grateful to the Government for coming forward with a supplementary demand for one thing. I confess to the weakness of having read our constitution. The only alternative to a supplementary grant is Section 32 of Act II of 1108, according to which any expenditure might be sanctioned by Government with a cryptic Financial Secretary's statement. Therefore it is an honour done to the House that Government have asked for a supplementary grant.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I ask the honourable member whether he has read the circumstances under which, according to the constitution, Government can ask for a supplementary demand ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I have. That is my weakness.

In regard to the practice and the necessity for travelling, I may say in justification for my colleagues on the committee that it has not been a luxury for them to go into the interior part of the State for 6 weeks together and often adjudicate upon rival claims in regard to the alignment of a road. Government have been benefited by

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lakhs of rupees in so far as the non-officials and Government officers have persuaded the public to surrender lands and induced them to do the earthwork and other things. Therefore on no account is the expenditure on their touring a loss. On the other hand, it has been a distinct gain from the point of view of public finance. Roads worth thousands of rupees have been opened owing to their endeavours. My friend was also under a misapprehension when he said that the opening or improving of trunk roads or for that matter important roads of the State will in a way relieve the necessity of a committee looking minutely into the question of the roads in rural areas. Certainly even when the Government or the Public Works Department begins to make big trunk roads, there will be the necessity of a committee for the Government or for the department for looking minutely into the question of improving communications in the interior parts of the State. Then, my friend was glibly saying that a map will solve the question. I am grateful to my honourable friend for the revelation, indeed for the valuable information, which the Atlas and the map will have for our benefit. But for the information of the member I can say that there is absolutely no up-to-date road map prepared either by the Public Works Department or by the Survey Department of the State and even when there is one, we can see only the roads that are actually in existence. If we really want to understand the topography of a place and the means of opening a road in a particular locality, it is essential to get the assistance of the people whether official or non-official of the locality in order to know the alignment of the roads in question. Therefore, my submission is that a map is never a substitute for the Chief Engineer or for the technical staff or for the Advisory Committee of the Public Works Department. Therefore, I would support the demand for this grant and also appeal to the non-officials to see whether the non-official members of the Board and the departmental officers did not care to go to the particular localities pointed out by the public and whether they have not done pretty valuable work in that connection. It is indeed bad grace for this House to say that this committee did not do any work and that they merely enjoyed the luxury of travelling to different places.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : I alone spoke on this Demand and I did not cast any aspersion on the members of the committee. In the circumstances, I wish to know what the member means by saying that kind of thing ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : My honourable friend pointed out that a map would suffice and that it could do the work of the Advisory Committee. I only repeat to this House that this committee did far more efficient work than a map could possibly do and that the very fact that the valuable time of the

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House has not been taken up by the honourable members wasting, or rather bestowing their eloquence, on culverts and small bridges, shows that this committee has thought fit to conciliate or placate the public as far as possible in the work of distributing the public funds on an equitable basis so as to serve every taluk.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : Does the member know that touring work was done by the members after obtaining Government sanction during the middle of the year and not at the beginning of the year ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I am thankful to my honourable friend Mr. Narayana Aiyar for drawing my attention to the fact that we did not anticipate permission of Government for touring work. In this matter, it was only with the explicit permission of Government the Committee members went on their tours.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know from Government whether the amount for touring has already been paid ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : No Sir.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 5,125 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XV—JAILS.

Rajyasevapravina Khan Bahadur G. S. Abdul Karim Sahib Suhrawardy (*Inspector-General of Police and Superintendent, Central Prison*) ; I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 378 under Demand XV—Jails, for the employment of 1 head warder and 10 warders in the Central Prison for a period of three months as a temporary measure. I have six reasons in support of my demand and the amount required therefor is modest being only in three digits. Firstly in connection with fodder cultivation in the Jail Compound a staff is needed. Then there is extra-mural work in the Thozhupurai at Pujappura for which some extra staff is needed. There also we cultivate fodder which is supplied to the dairy farm at Trivandrum. The House will be interested to know that the milk from the farm, a large bulk of it, is being supplied to the General Hospital as well as to the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple. The House will certainly be glad to know that within a month with the available men I had employed we were able to produce 300 lbs. more fodder than was grown before. As the Dewan said the other day and it was repeated today, it is a sin to leave even one inch of ground uncultivated. I have taken steps in right

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